

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 /044 W

----- 011790

R 260530Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6126

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0493

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, VN, JA, UK, CH, US, LA

SUBJECT: LAO DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

REF A 75 VIENTIANE 6451 (040300Z DEC 75, NOTAL),

B VIENTIANE 0324 (070521Z FEB 76, NOTAL),

C VIENTIANE 0457 (230833Z FEB 76, NOTAL)

THE NEWSPAPER VIENTIANE MAY OF FEBRUARY 26, 1976,
ANNOUNCED THAT FOUR NEWLY APPOINTED LAO AMBASSADORS
HAD CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC (SOUPHANOUVONG)
FEBRUARY 25 TO RECEIVE THEIR CREDENTIALS PRIOR TO
DEPARTING FOR THEIR POSTS OF ASSIGNMENT. THE FOUR
AMBASSADORS ARE: LANE PATHAMMAVONG, AMBASSADOR TO
TOKYO; PLATTHANA CHOUNRAMANY, AMBASSADOR TO LONDON;
KHAMTA DOUANGTHONGLA, AMBASSADOR TO HANOI (REF B);
AND THAVONE SICHALEUNE, AMBASSADOR TO PEKING (REF C).

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2. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF OUDONG SANANIKONE, AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO CANBERRA, OR LIEN PRAVONG VIENGKHAM, AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO WASHINGTON. (COMMENT: OUDONG IS SERIOUSLY ILL WITH CANCER IN BANGKOK. LIEN IS STILL ATTENDING A "SEMINAR" IN VIENG SAY.)

3. COMMENT: IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT IN THE CASES OF LANE AND PLATTHANA THE LAO COMMUNISTS ARE SENDING ABORAD CREER DIPLOMATS UNCONNECTED WITH THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT. THEY SEEM TO BE USING SUCH MEN FOR NON-COMMUNIST POSTS WHILE ASSIGNING COMMUNISTS TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC WITH THEIR FELLOW COMMUNISTS. IN ADDITION TO CANBERRA AND WASHINGTON, BANGKOK, WHICH MUST BE LAOS'S MOST IMPORTANT NON-COMMUNIST POST, REMAINS EMPTY.

4. WHILE FILLING AMBASSADORIAL VACANCIES THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ALSO BEEN GOING THROUGH A REORGANIZATION OF ITS OWN. THE POSITIONS OF SECRETARY GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS HAVE BEEN ABOLISHED. UNDER THE MINISTER AND THE TWO SECRETARIES OF STATE, THERE ARE NOW THE CABINET OF THE MINISTER, HEADED BY SOUBANH SRITHIRATH, AND SEVEN OFFICES, THE HEADS OF WHICH ARE TO BE STYLED "CHIEF" RATHER THAN "DIRECTOR." THESE OFFICES ARE: ADMINISTRATION; CONSULAR; PRESS AND INFORMATION; PROTOCOL; WESTERN COUNTRIES (WESTERN EUROPE-MIDDLE EAST-AMERICA); COMMUNIST COUNTRIES (EASTERN EUROPE AND NORTHERN ASIA), AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

5. ACCORDING TO THE CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SOMCHIT PHILATHIVONG, THE AID FUNCTION WHICH HAD FORMERLY BEEN CONTROLLED BY HIS OFFICE WAS NOW DEVIDED BETWEEN THE TWO GEOGRAPHIC OFFICES. SOMCHIT'S OFFICE WILL PRSUMABLY CONCERN ITSELF ONLY WITH MULTI-LATERAL AID. HE ADDED THAT TEN OF HIS SUBORDINATES HAD BEEN SHIFTED TO THE TWO GEOGRAPHIC OFFICES SO AS TO ENABLE THEM TO CARRY OUT THEIR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

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